

albacon 94^{thg}

21 - 24 OCTOBER 1994

SCOTLAND'S PREMIER SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION



progress
report

GREETINGS FROM THE COMMITTEE.

Hello and welcome to the first progress report for ALBACON 94.

The great news is that we are back at the Central Hotel: the best convention hotel in Glasgow.

Since ALBACON 94 is taking place quite close to the Hallowe'en weekend, the theme for the convention will be VAMPIRES! Of course, all aspects of the science fiction genre will be covered in the programme and we are currently negotiating for a guest of honour to knock your socks off.

As well as a packed programme, there will be several video rooms, an art show, a huge dealers room, all the latest news and photos from NASA courtesy of ASTRA (Association in Scotland to Research into Astronautics) and much more! If you wish to take part in the programme or you have an idea for a programme item, please get in touch and we will try and accommodate you.

Speaking of accommodation, we have negotiated extremely competitive bedroom rates for the convention weekend which are actually even cheaper than they were in 1991, and I doubt you will find rates like these at other cons. All the prices are inclusive of V.A.T. and full Scottish breakfast.

 One guest I am delighted to announce is Professor John Salthouse. In 1991, he almost blew the house down with his chemical bag of tricks and the audience were introduced to a new lethal weapon: a high flying MARVEL! In fact, HE asked to come back to another con, so who were we to deny him? Keep it to yourselves though, we haven't told the hotel yet!

On behalf of the committee, I hope you will join us next year for the best weekend this side of the Milky Way.

Cuddles xx

CONVENTION ADDRESS: 10 Atlas Road, Springburn, Glasgow G21 4TE. Tel: (041) 558 2862

MEMBERSHIP ADDRESS: Flat T/R 16 Govanhill St, Govanhill, Glasgow G42 7JZ. Tel: (041) 423 0110

GOPHER REGISTRATION: c/o D. Gaylor, 138 Hamilton Road, Rutherglen, Glasgow G73 3JA

GAMING INFORMATION: c/o R. Harrold, Flat 3/1 33 St. Andrews Cres, Glasgow G41 5SE

SECURITY REGISTRATION: c/o J. Fleming, 50/110 Kennishead Ave, Thornliebank, Glasgow G46 8RJ

ATTENTION ROLE PLAYERS!

Those who want to shake a few dice, kill the odd dragon, squash some goblins and other heroic deeds will be delighted to know that a room is being provided for the sole purpose of saving the world as you would like it. Also back by popular demand, introduction games for beginners will be organised. **WARNING! ROLE-PLAYING CAN BE ADDICTIVE (BUT FUN!).** If you would like more information, please contact Ralph Harrold at the address noted in the introduction.



MORE ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

As mentioned in the introduction, vampires will have an integral role in the programme but this does not mean ALBACON 94 will be a horror con. As before, the committee will try and cram in so much science fiction into four days, that your head will spin! Video rooms will offer you the difficult choice of watching Star Trek, Deep Space 9, Dr Who, Gerry Anderson classics, Red Dwarf, Blake's 7, Japanese animation and courtesy of the Scottish Society of Fantastic Films, a wide range of rare films and video shows.

As well as the big events, like guest talks, the masquerade and films, the main and alternative programme streams will have various panels, discussions, silly games, quizzes and much more. We are currently negotiating our author guest: an announcement will be made in the next progress report.

The convention starts on Friday with the video rooms opening at 10am and the main/alternate programmes opening at 2pm. Most convention areas will be accessible for 24hrs, the exceptions being, naturally, the dealer's room, art show and ASTRA exhibit. The convention will run through to Monday with the majority of programmes closing by 10pm.

HOW TO REGISTER FOR THE CONVENTION

Memberships are available in two categories. Full attending membership entitles the member to receive all convention publications and to attend the convention itself. Supporting membership entitles the member to receive the progress reports but does not permit entrance to the convention until the balance is paid. The conversion rate is based on the rate at the time of taking out an supporting membership and can be paid either before or on arrival at the convention.

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP RATES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

FULL ATTENDING MEMBERSHIP	£25
SUPPORTING MEMBERSHIP	£15

Rates for children are available on request.

Please send a cheque/Postal order payable to ALBACON 94 to the membership registration address quoted in the introduction.

HOW TO ADVERTISE IN FUTURE PUBLICATIONS INCLUDING THE CONVENTION PROGRAMME BOOK

If you wish to place an advert, please send your submission, camera ready, with the appropriate payment to the convention address. The rates for advertising are as follows:

	FULL PAGE	page	page
PROFESSIONAL	£40	£20	£10
FAN	£20	£10	£5

Deadline for PR2: 8th March 1994. Deadline for PR3: 26th June 1994. Deadline for con book: 2nd October 1994.

DEALER'S ROOM INFORMATION

As in previous years, there will be a large dealer's room offering the latest in books, comics and magazines. Other items on sale will be posters, models, jewellery and other paraphernalia.

If you would like a table in the dealer's room, please write to the convention address for an information and booking form.

RATES FOR DEALER'S ROOM: £15 PER TABLE.

(For each table booked, you will be entitled to 1/3 off your membership)

All bookings will be on a "first come, first served" basis and a maximum of 6 tables per booking.

WEAPONS POLICY

The Justice Department will be running the convention security again and will be applying their usual weapons policy. This means you present any weapon you like to the duty Judge for approval and purchase a permit, with the proceeds going to the con charity..

There will be some restrictions on what you can bring or do. These will be:

ALL bladed weapons must be peace bonded. Replicas and water pistols may not be loaded at any time. Weapons should not be pointed at anyone. The Judges' decision is final as to what comprises a weapon. Breaches of policy will result in the revoking of your licence and the confiscation of your toys until the end of the con.

THE CENTRAL HOTEL: ALL YOU WANTED TO KNOW BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK!

Those of you who have been to previous ALBACONs will be familiar with the layout of the hotel. A well-known landmark in the centre of the city, its Victorian facade and function room interiors have been preserved and recent renovation have added to its character. It is, of course, ideally placed for commuters as it was originally built as a railway hotel, and today the rear entrance opens directly into the Central Station concourse which is good news for fans travelling from the South. There is a bus link for those arriving at Queen Street Station and if you want to see some of the sights of Glasgow, most of the bus routes run past the hotel.

All the rooms in the hotel have en suite bathrooms, colour television and in-house movies, tea/coffee making facilities and excellent room services if needed. The Entresol restaurant has an excellent carvery and à la Carte menu but it is important to give good notice of any special dietary needs, which you can indicate in the hotel booking form. New to the hotel, is the leisure club, located in the basement, and is also accessible from Hope Street. All facilities are available to hotel residents and children MUST be accompanied by an adult. It is open Mon-Fri from 7am - 9pm and weekends from 8am - 8pm. Facilities include:

- swimming pool with jet steam
- comprehensive "Pulstar" and "Life Fitness" gymnasium
- Turkish steam room
- sunbed salon
- relaxing whirlpool spa
- dry Finnish sauna
- fully qualified staff for professional fitness assessment and planning of exercise programme.

The committee will be discussing the tariff for the con bars and the provision of inexpensive snacks during the convention which will be advertised in later progress reports.

To get the most from ALBACON 94 we recommend attendees to stay at the convention hotel, that way you won't miss anything and you won't have to worry about getting home in the middle of the night (or early in the morning). Needless to say, to make this more attractive to you, we have secured extremely reasonable room rates that I doubt can be matched by any other convention.

ALBACON 94 ROOM RATES (inclusive of V.A.T. & full Scottish breakfast) PER PERSON

SINGLE/TWIN/DOUBLE ROOM: £20 TRIPLE: £19 QUAD: £17

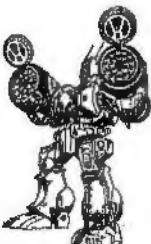
To make it easier for some to cover accommodation costs, the committee has decided to offer the option of a payment scheme. A £10 deposit payable to the Central Hotel MUST be made with each booking whether you are using the payment scheme or not. It is non-refundable but will secure your booking. To participate in the scheme, you must send a minimum of £10 per month to the convention address (the last postal payment should be sent before Friday 14th October 1994). Immediately before the convention, or after full payment has been made, the money will be transferred to the hotel. In the event of a cancellation, repayment will be made within one month after the last day of the convention. This payment scheme is not compulsory but if you wish to use this option, please indicate so on your hotel booking form which is available from the convention address.

ATTENTION MASQUERADERS!

At ALBACON 91, all the winners of the masquerade competition had a portrait photograph taken plus a group one, with all the winners and the guests. Unfortunately, some of the winners did not get their copies because we lost their contact address. If you are one of these people, please contact Cuddles at convention address and the photographs will be sent out forthwith..

For those interested in costuming at the con in 1994, please write to the convention address for an information and registration form.

MECHFORCE UK CHAMPIONSHIPS (SCOTLAND)



We are delighted to announce that the championships will be held at ALBACON 94, following on from their success in 1991. The entire event will be held on the Sunday and more details will be printed in the next progress report.

alBACON 94^{tng}

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MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name

Address

.....

.....

Postcode Telephone Number

Membership Type

Attending £25 (until 31st March)

Supporting £15

Badge Name

(Please tick as appropriate)

Please send a Hotel Booking form

Please send a Dealers Table form

Please return this form together with a Cheque/Postal Order made payable to ALBACON 94 to

ALBACON 94, 16 Govanhill Street, Govanhill, Glasgow, G42 7JZ

DEAD BY DAWN

Edinburgh Filmhouse
Midnight 22/23rd January 1994

Films, guests, food and merchandise are all on offer this year and the line-up is looking really good despite the fact that the most requested classic for screening was "Bambi". Somebody, somewhere is missing the point! Needless to say I have completely ignored this and programmed "The Haunting" and "Bad Taste" instead. These will be accompanied by Abel Ferrara's remake of "Invasion Of The Bodysnatchers" and Mariano Baino's "Dark Waters". Mariano will be on stage to introduce his film. The fifth film has still to be confirmed although it is likely to be either the british production "Bedlam", or Brian Yuzna's "Return Of The Living Dead 3". Call Me at the number below for a progress report anytime!

We've got our act in gear and actually printed up T-shirts this year and you can order these in advance with your ticket. Tickets have gone up in price this year but will stay at this level for evermore (Honest). Dealers Room is open again this year, and hopefully so will the kitchen be at around 6am for bacon rolls, egg rolls or even bacon and egg rolls.

Guests in January will include "Samhain" editor John Gullidge and director Mariano Baino. There will be more, so stay in touch for updates.



2F2, 54 Marchmont Road
Edinburgh
EH9 1HS
Telephone 031-447 8704

Please remember that you can pay for your ticket(s) either by cheque or Postal Order made payable to "Dead By Dawn". If you write a cheque, please write the card number and expiry date on the back.

Tickets	£15 each
T-Shirts	£10 each
(all T-Shirts are size XL)	